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STATISTICAL SUMMARY

BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS, U. S. D. A.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 16, 1950 SS-93

Crop Prospects Excellent

Weather during the past month has been favorable and prospects for most crops are excellent. Aggregate outturn of all crops will be about a fourth larger than the 1923-32 average, though smaller than the unusually large outturns in '48 and '49.

Better Yields per Acre, Acreage Smallest Since '41

Yields per acre improved during July for most crops, but acreage for harvest is the smallest total since '41. Total acreage of principal crops for harvest is about 339½ million. Planted acreage totaled about 357 million acres, indicating abandonment this year of well over 17 million acres.

Prospects for Corn Good

The corn crop, estimated at 3.2 billion bushels, is unchanged from month ago. Last year's production, 3.4 billion bushels; 10-year average, 2.9 billion bushels. Indicated average yield is 38.1 bushels per acre; year ago, 38.9; 10-year average, 32.9 bushels per acre.

Feed-Grain Production Nearly Same as Last Year.

Total production of feed grains (corn, oats, barley and sorghum grains) is now estimated to be nearly 5.1 billion bushels, about the same in bushels as last year's production. Here are the comparisons in thousands of bushels:

	Production Last Year	Indicated for 1950
Corn.....	3,377,790 bu.....	3,167,607 bu.
Oats	1,322,924 bu.....	1,456,130 bu.
Barley	238,104 bu.....	285,402 bu.
Sorghum grain	152,630 bu.....	176,428 bu.
	5,091,448 bu.....	5,085,567 bu.

Feed Supplies to be Near Record High

Feed supplies, '50-51 season, will be close to last season's record high, both in total and per animal unit. Animal units to be fed are expected to be about same as last season. And there is a heavy carryover of feed grains, dominated by the record stocks of corn. To carryover stocks will be added the 4th largest corn crop, a very large oats crop, the near-record outturn of sorghum grain, and a sizable but below average crop of barley.

Record Hay Supplies

Hay supplies will be the most liberal of record per hay-consuming animal. Carryover of hay is about average while the new crop of 105 million tons is 5 million tons above average.

Pastures Generally Excellent

Pastures August 1 were excellent. Only once in 40 years (1945) has the pasture condition been so good. But pastures were only fair in parts of New England, New York, New Jersey, Minnesota, South Dakota and Pacific Coast States; relatively poor in Colorado.

Range Pastures Improved

Range pastures improved during July. Poor grazing August 1 was found only in south Texas, parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado and in the seasonally dry lower ranges. Except in the drier sections, livestock made more than usual gains.

10-Million Bale Cotton Crop Forecast

The U. S. cotton crop is forecast of 10.3 million bales. This is 5.8 million bales less than last year's crop. It is down more than a third from last year but is only 11 percent less than the '39-48 average. Acreage, less abandonment, is 18.7 million acres. Harvested acreage last year was 27.2 million; '39-48 average, 21.3 million acres.

Nearly Average Cottonseed Tonnage Expected

Based on past experience (ratio of lint to seed) cottonseed production may be about 4.2 million tons compared with 6.6 million tons last year and 4.7 million tons average. (No official estimate until the cotton crop is ginned.)

Wool Production Up From Last Year

This year's shorn wool crop in the U. S. is estimated at 218.2 million pounds up 1.3 million pounds from last year. This is the first increase in wool production since '42 but is still only about two-thirds of the 10-year average.

Wheat Estimate Close to Billion Bushels

The wheat estimate is up 40 million bushels from July. Estimate is now close to 1 billion bushels (996,490,000). 10-year average, 1 billion bushels; last year's production 1.1 billion. Improvement during past month about equally divided between winter and spring wheat.

Food Grains Compared with Last Year's Production

Food grain crops are expected to total within 150 million bushels of last year's production. Comparisons are shown below (thousands of bushels):

	Production Last Year	Indicated for 1950
Wheat.....	1,146,463 bu.....	996,490 bu.
Rye.....	18,697 bu.....	22,509 bu.
Buckwheat.....	5,184 bu.....	4,807 bu.
Rice (100 lb. bags).....	40,113 bags.....	36,237 bags

Flaxseed Improved, But Below Average Crop

The flaxseed estimate has improved since last month. Estimate of 30.7 million bushels is up about 4½ percent from a month ago but is below last year's production of 43.7 million bushels and is nearly 12 percent below average.

Bumper Crop of Soybeans Expected

This year's soybean crop, forecast at 270.7 million bushels, will be an all-time high—more than 48 million bushels above last year and nearly 48 million bushels higher than the previous record crop produced in '48. (BAE has a new publication showing where soybeans are mainly produced. Ask for "Soybeans Harvested for Beans, Acreage, Yield and Production, 1948 and 1949, By Counties for 17 Principal States.")

Peanut Crop Down From Last Year

Peanuts, estimated at 1,660 million pounds, will be 12 percent below the 1,876 million pounds produced in '49. Average production, 1,951 million pounds. Acreage for picking and threshing, for the country as a whole, is down 9 percent from last year.

PARITY PRICES FOR FARM PRODUCTS AND ACTUAL PRICES RECEIVED

COMMODITY AND UNIT	ACTUAL PRICE		PARITY PRICE
	June 15 1950	July 15 1950	July 15 1950
Wheat, bu.	dol. 1.93	1.99	2.21
Corn, bu.	dol. 1.36	1.44	1.60
Peanuts, lb.	ct. 10.8	10.9	12.0
Cotton, lb.	ct. 29.91	33.05	31.00
Potatoes, bu.	dol. 1.27	1.27	1.75
Hogs, 100 lb.	dol. 17.80	21.50	19.30
Beef cattle, 100 lb.	dol. 23.70	24.50	17.40
Veal calves, 100 lb.	dol. 25.90	26.70	19.50
Lambs, 100 lb.	dol. 24.80	24.60	19.10
Butterfat, lb.	ct. 1/ 65.2	1/ 63.6	70.9
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.	dol. 1/ 3.88	1/ 2/ 3.84	4.43
Chickens, live, lb.	ct. 22.1	23.4	29.2
Eggs, doz.	ct. 1/ 33.8	1/ 35.3	51.1

1/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.

2/ Preliminary.

Estimate Drops on Dry Beans

The dry bean crop is estimated at 16.7 million bags (100 lbs.) compared with 17.2 million bags forecast month ago. This year's production would be 22 percent below the record crop of last year and about 4 percent below average.

Situation for Dry Peas Improves

Estimate for dry peas is 4 percent better than in July. The 2.9 million bags now indicated will be 11 percent below last year and the smallest crop since '40. Yield is high, acreage small.

Tobacco Crop About Same as Last Year

Tobacco production will be close to last year's total. Prospects are practically unchanged from last month. The estimate of 1,933 million pounds is only 2 percent below last year's crop and will top average by 9 percent.

Small Peach Crop

A 3½ million bushel decline took place in the peach estimate since July 1. U. S. estimate at 52 million bushels compares with nearly 75 million bushels produced last year and 70 million average.

Peach Outlook in Different Areas

Harvest is about over in the early Southern peach States where the crop was extremely short. In the Mid-Atlantic States, harvest has started and crop is 4 percent below average. Harvest has started also in Midwest where the crop is about average. The North Atlantic region, which will furnish late eastern peaches, has an average crop. In the Western States (except California with an average crop) the peach crop is very short.

More Cattle on Feed Than Last Year

In the 11 Corn Belt States, cattle on feed July 1 exceeded the number on feed in July last year by 34 percent. Indications point to an over-all increase in the Corn Belt of nearly a half million head from a year ago.

Milk Cow Numbers Leveling Off

Milk cows on farms in June totaled 22.7 million head, same as in June '49. Indications are that numbers are not getting any lower, but the present number—except for a year ago—is the smallest for June in 20 years. Until this year numbers had declined steadily each year for 5 years.

Milk Production High Despite Fewer Cows

The 11.8 Billion pounds of milk produced on U. S. farms in July was 2 percent more than in July last year and, except for '45, '46 and '47, was the highest for July on record. Milk per cow was at record rate for the month; cow numbers smallest since 1930.

Egg Production Up From Last Year

Farm flocks laid 4.6 billion eggs in July. This was up from average by 12 percent and 7 percent higher than in July last year. The 305.7 million layers on farms in July was an increase of 5 percent from a year earlier and topped 10-year average by 3 percent.

Live Turkeys Bring 30 cents; Large Storage Stocks

Live turkeys averaged 30.5 cents a pound, mid-July. This compares with 34.7 cents a year earlier. Prices to farmers for turkeys have been increasing steadily since the low point reached in May. U. S. storage stocks of turkeys on July 1 were 66 million pounds, which compares with 29 million pounds last year and the 5-year average of 47 million pounds.

Irish Potato Production Up 1 Percent From Last Year

Irish potato production, estimated at 407.3 million bushels, is about 1 percent larger than the 402 million bushels harvested last year. The '39-48 average, 403.3 million bushels. Growing conditions have been favorable and yield per acre is expected to exceed previous high by about 7 bushels.

9 Percent More Sweetpotatoes

The sweetpotato crop of 59.3 million bushels will be about 9 percent larger than last year's crop. Yield per acre is near record.

Big Sugar Beet and Sugarcane Crop

Indicated 13 million ton crop of sugar beets is the largest ever produced. Compares with last year's crop of 10.2 million tons. Previous record crop of 12.5 million tons was produced in '47. Indicated 7.6 million tons of sugarcane also is a big crop.

Based on previous yield of sugar beets and sugarcane, about 2.4 million tons of refined sugar will be produced this year. This would be a record production.

Land Values Climb Back Near High Peak

U. S. land values, at 172 percent of the 1912-14 average, have now climbed back to the level of a year ago and are only 3 percent below the high reached in November 1948. The rise during the 4-month period ending July 1 averaged 2 percent. Gain made in the previous 4-month period was only 1 percent.

Farm Products Ample for All Needs

Supplies of agricultural products are expected to be amply for both civilian and military needs. Another year of large farm production is in prospect. A somewhat smaller production than last year of such crops as wheat, corn and cotton will be largely offset by larger carryovers than a year ago.

Plenty of Food Supplies

Supplies of food for civilians are expected to continue at about the same high level as in the past 2 years—even allowing for increases for the military.

Nation's Economy at a High Level

The prospective increase in military outlays, arising from the Korean situation, is a strong new force in an economy which was already at a high level. Even before the outbreak in Korea, demand for most farm products was strong, strengthened by record employment and increasing consumer incomes.

Industrial Output Breaking Records

Index of industrial production in June (Federal Reserve Board) at 199, was nearly double the 1935-'39 level. The June production was 2 percent above the peak reached in late '48, and 18 percent above June a year ago. Durable goods output was at a level 22 percent higher than in June a year ago. Steel mills averaged 99.5 percent of capacity. Motor vehicle production in June totaled 857,000 cars and trucks compared with previous high of 697,000 month before. Cars and trucks produced first 6 months this year, 3.8 million . . . 3 million same period last year. Building material industries continued to produce at near capacity. And expenditures on new construction in June rose to a record of \$2.4 billion, 20 percent greater than a year earlier.

Employment Tops Year Ago by 1½ Million

Total civilians at work in July, 61.2 million, exceeded the number in July last year by 1.5 million. Civilian employment was still near the record of 61.6 million reached in July '48. Unemployed in July, 3.2 million. Year earlier, 4.1 million were unemployed.

Fewer Workers on Farms

A half million fewer people were working on farms this July than last. The 11.6 million at work on farms latter part of July compares with 12.2 million year earlier. The decline in farm workers appears to be a return to the long-time downward trend in farm employment which was interrupted briefly in '46 and '47.

CURRENT INDEXES FOR AGRICULTURE		
INDEX NUMBERS	BASE PERIOD	July 1950
Prices received by farmers	1910-14= 100	263
Prices paid by farmers, interest taxes and farm wage rates	1910-14= 100	256
Parity ratio	1910-14= 100	103
Wholesale prices of food	1910-14= 100	267
Retail prices of food	1910-14= 100	264
Farm wage rates	1910-14= 100	429
Weekly factory earnings	1910-14= 100	513
PRODUCTION COMPARISONS	Jan.-July 1949	Jan.-July 1950
Milk, (Bil. lb.)	73.0	74.6
Eggs, (Bil.)	36.8	39.1
Beef, (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 3,447	4/ 3,373
Lamb & Mutton (Dr. wt., mil. lb.) ..	4/ 248	4/ 266
Pork & Lard (Mil. lb.)	4/ 8,816	4/ 5,170
All meats (Dr. wt., mil. lb.)	4/ 8,836	4/ 9,120
1/ Week ended nearest 15th of the month.		
2/ June figure.		
3/ Adjusted for seasonal variation.		
4/ January-June under Federal inspection.		